

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1065

By Floyd

A RESOLUTION to honor John J. Spittler upon his receipt of the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those outstanding individuals who have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Mr. John J. Spittler of Signal Mountain, director emeritus and namesake of the John J. Spittler Greater Chattanooga Navy League Council, who recently received the prestigious Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award from the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, this illustrious honor is only bestowed on those individuals who foster cooperation among people regardless of race, creed, ethnicity or religious belief and is a tribute to four military chaplains of different faiths who sacrificed themselves during World War II when the U.S. Army troop ship Dorchester was torpedoed and sank in the North Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS, a native of Nebraska, Mr. Spittler earned a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Nebraska before he joined the Army Air Force flight training program in 1940 and upon completion served with the Royal Canadian Air Force; and

WHEREAS, transferring to the U.S. Navy in January 1942, Jack Spittler was assigned as Recognition and Personnel Officer on the staff of the first Fletcher class destroyer squadron commissioned. All nine ships were assigned to the Pacific Theatre of Operations, but only three returned; and

WHEREAS, participating in thirteen major Pacific engagements, his ship, the USS Nicholas (DD449), became the most highly decorated fighting ship in Naval History and was

granted by Admiral "Bull" Halsey the high honor of transferring Japanese dignitaries to the Battleship Missouri for signing of the peace treaty ending World War II; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his service Mr. Spittler holds numerous awards and commendations, including the Bronze Star for Valor, Commendation Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Asiatic Pacific Theatre ribbon with two silver and three bronze stars, Philippine Liberation Combat Action Ribbon with thirteen battle stars, Meritorious and Distinguished Navy Public Service awards, and the Coast Guard Meritorious Public Service Award; and

WHEREAS, upon his discharge from the Navy in November 1945, he enrolled at Ohio State University where he earned a Bachelor of Law degree and a Juris Doctor degree. He helped found and became president of the Columbus Ohio Council of the Navy League which grew to more than 800 members. Subsequently he served as state president, regional president, national vice-president and, from 1979-1981, he was national president of the Navy League of the United States. At age 85 he inaugurated the Greater Chattanooga Navy League Council, spurring its membership to more than 200 in less than three years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spittler is a life member of the Navy League, Tin Can Sailors, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Ohio State and University of Nebraska alumni associations, Delta Theta Phi legal fraternity, Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge, a Paul Harris Fellow in Rotary, and has a lifetime commitment to education; and

WHEREAS, John J. Spittler epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to honor and commend John J. Spittler for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate John J. Spittler of Signal Mountain on his receipt of the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award, applaud his distinguished military service to this Nation, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.